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RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

Report of the working group on a draft optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on involvement of children in armed conflicts on its fourth session

Addendum

1. Following its consideration of the report of the working group on a draft optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on involvement of children in armed conflicts on its fourth session (E/CN.4/1998/102), the Commission on Human Rights adopted, on 22 April 1998, resolution 1998/76 entitled "Rights of the child".

2. In paragraph 14 (b) and (c) of that resolution, the Commission decided to encourage the Chairman of the working group to conduct broad informal consultations with the aim of promoting an early agreement on the optional protocol and to produce a report thereon by the end of 1998 including, if possible, recommendations and/or ideas on the best way for the formal negotiations to proceed. The Commission on Human Rights requested the working group to meet in early 1999, primarily to consider the Chairman's report on the status of the informal consultations, and to report to the Commission at its fifty-fifth session.

3. Since the Chairman-Rapporteur of the working group's fourth session, Mr. Nils Eliasson (Sweden), would not have been available to conduct the informal consultations during the intersessional period as provided for in

Commission resolution 1998/76, an additional meeting of the working group was convened at the request of several delegations in order to select a person to replace Mr. Eliasson in carrying out the activities entrusted to him as Chairman. That meeting was held on 24 April 1998.

4. At the proposal of the representative of Germany made on behalf of the group of Western European and other States, Ms. Catherine von Heidenstam (Sweden) was elected Chairperson for the period until the next session of the working group.

5. Several delegations expressed their appreciation and gratitude to Mr. Eliasson for his dedication and the hard work he had accomplished during the four years he had served as Chairman Rapporteur of the working group.